

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04

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SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-02 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7533

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 4353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ID

SUBJ: COMMODITY TRADE: PEPPER

REF: JAKARTA 3839

1. SUMMARY: ON APRIL 1 THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
ANNOUNCED THAT INDONESIA WILL COOPERATE WITH MALAYSIA
AND INDIA IN PEPPER PRODUCTION, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH.
END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING MEETING OF CABINET-LEVEL ECONOMIC
STABILIZATION COUNCIL 1 APRIL INFORMATION MINISTER
MASJURI ANNOUNCED COUNCIL APPROVED INDONESIA
COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA AND INDIA IN PEPPER
MARKETING AND PRODUCTION, WITH EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH.
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HE ADDED THAT INDONESIA PRODUCES CIRCA 31,000 TONS OF

PEPPER ANNUALLY, OF WHICH IN 1974 17,900 WENT TO US AND 6,100 TO EUROPE.

3. TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMS US THAT RECENT DECISION WAS TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF ASIAN PEPPER COMMUNITY FORMED IN 1971 UNDER ESCAP AUSPICES. COMMUNITY IS NOT FUNCTIONAL, HE EXPLAINED; TEMPORARY SECRETARIAT OPERATES OUT OF ESCAP BANGKOK. INITIAL THRUST OF PROGRAM ON WHICH INDONESIA IS EMBARKING WITH INDIA AND MALAYSIA WILL BE RESEARCH IN PROCESSING, SPECIFICALLY PRODUCTION OF PEPPER OIL, AS MEANS OF MAXIMIZING LOCAL VALUE ADDED. EVENTUAL HOPE IS THAT PEPPER COMMUNITY WILL DEVELOP ALONG LINES OF COCONUT COMMUNITY.

4. COMMENT: INDONESIA IS TRYING BY A VARIETY OF MEANS, ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, TO IMPROVE RETURNS FROM COMMODITY EXPORTS. FOLLOWING MARCH MEETING OF EXPERTS FROM RUBBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES, FOREIGN TRADE DIRGEN SUHADI MANGKUSUWONDO TOLD NEWSMEN INDONESIA WOULD JOIN WITH OTHER PRODUCERS IN PROGRAM LAUNCHED BY MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT TO STABILIZE NATURAL RUBBER PRICES THROUGH BUFFER STOCK SCHEME. GOI IS CONSIDERING ADHERENCE TO BAUXITE ASSOCIATION, AN APPROACH WE UNDERSTAND AUSTRALIAN DPM CAIRNS ENCOURAGED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT (REFERENCE), WHEN HE ALLEGEDLY OBSERVED TO MINING MINISTER SADLI THAT IT MADE SENSE FOR INDONESIA TO BELONG. GOI ALSO LOOKING AT POSSIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP IN CIPEC (COPPER). PRIVATE ASSOCIATION OF INDONESIAN TIMBER EXPORTERS HAS UNDERTAKEN CONSULTATION WITH MALAYSIAN AND PHILIPPINE COUNTERPARTS AND WITH BUYERS IN JAPAN WITH VIEW TO BETTER MARKET FORECASTING AND SUPPLY/DEMAND ALIGNMENT WITH POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. INDONESIA ALREADY A MEMBER OF ITC (TIN) AND OPEC. IN NONE OF THESE HAS INDONESIA STOOD FOR EXTREME PRODUCER POWER TACTICS. EMPHASIS CONTINUES ON CIRCUMSCRIBED PRODUCER COOPERATION IN CONSULTATION WITH CONSUMERS. NEWSOM

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